

XXII. *Characters of a new Genus and Species of Chalcidites.* By F. WALKER, F.L.S.

[Read 2nd October, 1865.]

THE Hymenopterous insect here mentioned is from North Australia, and is in the possession of F. Smith, Esq., who has kindly allowed me to describe it. Its apparent resemblance to some of the ant tribe is very striking, and the purpose of this mimicry has been often noticed in recent publications. It seems to have most affinity to the *Cleonymidæ*; but like some other exotic genera it has a peculiar structure, which distinguishes it from all the hitherto defined groups of *Chalcidites*.

GENUS MYRMECOPSIS.

Mas.—Corpus robustum, apterum. Caput scabrum, sparse pubescens, transversum, thorace non angustius; facies transverse sulcata. Oculi magni. Ocelli tres. Mandibulæ parvæ. Antennæ flagelliformes, apud os insertæ, thorace vix breviores; articulus 1^{us} facie non brevior; 2^{us} elongatus; 3^{us} 1^{mo} dimidio, 2^{do} duplo longior; 4^{us} et sequentes breves; 13^{us} longè conicus, 12^{mo} longior. Thorax scaber, sparse pubescens. Prothorax transversus, quadratus, bene determinatus; latera marginata. Mesothorax brevissimus; scutum parapsidum suturis distinctis; scutellum scuto multo brevius. Metathorax quadratus, bene determinatus, mesothorace brevior, margine postico setoso aciculato bidentato. Petiolus brevissimus. Abdomen ellipticum, glabrum, convexum, apice setosum, thorace latius et multo brevius, segmento uno dorsali. Pedes robusti; tibiæ calcaribus parvis; tarsi subarcuati, 5-articulati; femora antica subincrassata.

Male.—Body stout, with hardly any rudiments of wings. Head and thorax scabrous, thinly pubescent. Head fully as broad as the thorax; face vertical, with transverse furrows. Eyes large, not prominent. Ocelli three, as usual. Mandibles small. Antennæ nearly as long as the thorax, inserted close to the mouth, increasing in breadth from the 1st joint to the 7th, tapering thence to the tips; 1st joint or scape as long as the face; 2nd elongate; 3rd

twice the length of the 2nd, and more than half the length of the 1st; all the following joints short, 13th elongate, conical, longer than the 12th. Prothorax quadrate, much developed, broader than long, with a slight rim along each side. Mesothorax very short, hardly as broad as the prothorax. Scutum hardly half the length of the prothorax; sutures of the parapsides distinct. Scutellum much shorter than the scutum. Metathorax quadrate, well developed, shorter than the mesothorax; hind border with a short stout spine on each side, and with a ridge in the middle. Petiole extremely short. Abdomen elliptical, smooth, shining, convex, broader and very much shorter than the thorax, with only one dorsal segment; tip setose. Legs stout; tibiæ with two short apical spurs; tarsi 5-jointed, slightly curved, the joints successively decreasing in length; fore-femora slightly incrassated.

Myrmecopsis nigricans.

Mas.—*M. viridi-nigra*; antennæ nigræ, basi fulvæ; abdomen cupreo-nigrum; pedes rufi, tarsi nigricantibus.

Male.—Greenish black. Antennæ black; 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th joints tawny. Abdomen cupreous-black. Legs red; tarsi blackish.

Length of the body, $2\frac{3}{4}$ lines.

Hab.—Northern Australia.